

10/630,167

REMARKS

A replacement drawing sheet is attached with the reference to "FIGURE 1" deleted.

Claims 1-10 have been rejected as unpatentable over Bradley in view of Hakalehto.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the attached amended claims and following considerations.

Independent claim 1 has been amended by adding a limitation to a disposable culturing container and a limitation to a submicron filter between the disposable culturing container and the air pump.

Neither Bradley nor Hakalehto disclose a disposable culturing container nor a submicron filter to prevent contamination of the air pump. Bradley merely discloses a hydrophobic filter to prevent passage of liquid. Hakalehto does not utilize an air pump and therefore does not utilize the filters to prevent contamination of an air pump by liquid or solid particulate matter.

Thus, claim 1 as amended and dependent claims 2-10 are now believed allowable.

(K:\WPJMD\Eden, Gideon\amended claims- detecting airborne microorganisms.doc)